

Angelique Alexos on technology; Foster Graf on courage; Chapin Grumhaus on community cooperation; Heather Knobel on dyslexia; Luke Maggos on stereotypes; Olivia Maggos on Russian adoption; Tyler Medvec on unsung heroes; Calvin Osborne on NASA; Charlie Shattock on optimism; Lily Silvester on baking; Scotty Skinner on Falling Whistles; Kimberly Stafford on underdogs; and Chloe Whelan on what is normal.

Since the Annual Robbie Bermingham Speaking Contest is, in fact, a competition, special recognition must go to Chloe Whelan, who took First Place, to Tyler Medvec for a Second Place finish and to Heather Knobel and Chapin Grumhaus for jointly taking Third Place.

These students, their enthusiasm, their eloquence and their vision truly inspired me and gave me hope for our future.

I am grateful for the lasting impression that young Robbie Bermingham has left on Lake Forest Country Day School, its faculty and students, and I am glad that they carry on that legacy of public speaking excellence today. Congratulations once again to all 13 finalists, and thank you for bringing us hope and perspective.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 204 held on May 7, 2014, I intended to vote “no.” I oppose H. Res. 565, “Calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service,” and support the ongoing efforts of the Justice Department to investigate the alleged targeting of both conservative and liberal groups.

HONORING BATTALION SGT. MAJOR ROBERT J. BLATNIK

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Battalion Sgt. Major Robert J. Blatnik for his exceptional service to our country. He joined the US Army’s 1st Battalion, 26th Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, on October 19, 1938, and would remain in this unit for the entirety of his time in the service. He saw combat during WWII in North Africa, Tunisia, Sicily, Germany, and France. On June 6, 1944 he took part in the first wave of the invasion of Normandy at Omaha Beach—Fox Red 1. Mr. Blatnik earned 4 Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, 5 Bronze Stars, and several other medals.

Mr. Blatnik remains a true patriot, and last summer, he was among six Normandy vets from Texas selected to go back to the beachhead where so many gave the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom. Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, “We will always remember. We will always be

proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free.” And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Battalion Sgt. Major Robert J. Blatnik for his service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

REQUESTING AN EXPEDITED ACCREDITATION PROCESS FOR COMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, on August 22, 2006, Compton Community College lost its accreditation. Because it is a core educational institution for students from Compton and neighboring cities such as Carson, Lynwood, Paramount, Watts, and North Long Beach, I would like to take this time to recognize its excellence and request an expedited accreditation process.

Compton Community College has a proud history of being a primary provider of high quality post-secondary education for persons of color in the greater Los Angeles County region from 1927 until 2006. Not only is it a source of community pride and positive stimulus for students and families, but it also supports the continued development of the surrounding communities.

Since 2006, the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees, under the direction of the highly regarded Dr. Keith Curry, have partnered Compton Community with El Camino College, an accredited school of good standing in order to offer accredited courses to 6,780 students.

El Camino College’s involvement have kept the higher education alive in Compton, however the people of Compton deserve a college to call their own. Compton Community College served as a source of community pride, a positive stimulus for students and families, and supported the continued development of the surrounding communities.

Therefore, I am introducing a resolution to urge an expedited accreditation process for Compton Community College. I stand with the faculty and students of Compton Community College, and look forward to Compton College once again leading the young people of Compton through their pursuit of higher education.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION ACT OF 2014

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act of 2014, a bill that will create an independent commission to evaluate U.S. policies aimed at reducing drug production and trafficking in the Western Hemisphere. A similar bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously on December 8, 2009 with a bipartisan group of 30 cosponsors.

I thank my good friend and colleague Congressman MATT SALMON, the Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, for being the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation. I also thank Representatives SIRES, ROSELEHTINEN and O’ROURKE for being original cosponsors of the bill.

With \$15.7 billion spent on counternarcotics programs in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1980 and 2012, it is important to take stock of what has worked, what has not worked and what future U.S. drug policy should look like. This independent commission will be required to submit recommendations on future U.S. drug policy to Congress, the Secretary of State and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy 12 months after its first meeting.

The time to examine U.S. drug policy is long overdue. While billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent over the years to fight the drug trade, illegal drug use in the United States remains high. In 2012, there were an estimated 23,900,000 illicit drug users in the United States. In particular, I am concerned by the dramatic increase in heroin use in our country. Attorney General Eric Holder recently noted that heroin overdose deaths in the United States increased by an alarming 45 percent between 2006 and 2010.

On the supply side, nearly all cocaine consumed in the United States originates in South America while most of the heroin consumed here is from Colombia and Mexico. In addition, Central America and the Caribbean are key transit regions for drugs entering the United States.

To tackle our nation’s horrific drug problem once and for all, we must have a better sense of what works and what does not work. Our partners in the Americas, who have worked closely with us in fighting drug trafficking for years, and the citizens of our great country, who deal every day with illegal drugs on their streets, deserve no less.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF EDWARD IWANICKI, SR.

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the State of Connecticut lost one of its great sons with the passing of Edward Iwanicki, Sr., a leader who served Connecticut through a long and distinguished career in public service.

Mr. Iwanicki, one of ten children born to Polish immigrants Konstanty and Mary Pauline Boczkowska Iwanicki, was born and raised in Meriden, Connecticut. A talented athlete, he excelled at sports, even being named All-State Quarterback in 1937. He went on to share his passion for athletics with younger generations of Meriden youth, serving as a coach and umpire for city baseball and football teams.

When the United States entered World War II, Mr. Iwanicki served his country as an infantryman in the U.S. Army.

Following World War II, Mr. Iwanicki returned to Meriden and began his 35-year career at New Departure, which was then part of